

REMARKS

By way of the above amendments, claims 1-23 have been canceled, and claims 24-49 have been added. As such, claims 24-49 are presently pending.

The newly added claims add no new subject matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

The protein-coding sequence of nucleotides 109-5103 (as recited in claims 24, 26, and 28) or 109-5106 (as recited in claim 25) of SEQ ID NO:1 is identified in Figure 1B, which shows a start codon beginning at nucleotide 109 and a stop codon at nucleotides 5104-5106 of SEQ ID NO:1.

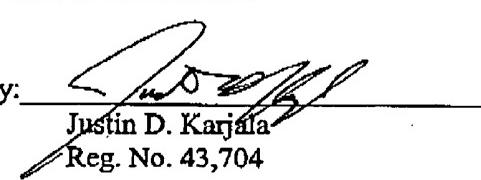
The substitution of valine ("V") or alanine ("A") in place of glycine ("G") at position 68 (as recited in claims 36-39), the substitution of serine ("S") in place of proline ("P") at position 545 (as recited in claims 40-41), and the substitution of alanine ("A") in place of valine ("V") at position 869 (as recited in claims 42-43) of SEQ ID NO:2 are each shown in Figure 3B.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in condition for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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